(b) Investigation in this accident has been completed and the cause of the accident has been established as Human Error (Aircrew). A continuous and multi-faceted effort is always underway in the Indian Air Force to enhance and upgrade flight safety.

(c) A total number of 11 aircraft of the Indian Air Force were lost during the financial year 2005-2006. Out of these 11 aircraft, 6 were fighters, 1 bomber, 2 helicopters and 2 trainers. There has been no accident of aircraft during the financial year 2006-2007, so far.

Accident of INS Prahar

2602. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Navy lost its Naval Missile Boat, INS Prahar in an accident;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total loss suffered by the country in this accident;

(d) whether any inquiry has been held in this matter;

(e) if so, the outocme of this inquiry; and

(f) the action taken by Government on this report?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (f) The Indian Naval ship Prahar met an accident with a merchant vessel Rajiv Gandhi at 2145 Hrs on 21st April, 2006, 20 nautical miles west of Goa and sank just after midnight. All the 73 crew members of INS Prahar have been rescued. The sinking of the ship caused a loss of Rs.160.45 crore approximately. A Board of Inquiry (BOI) has been ordered to investigate the matter. Appropriate action will be taken after receipt of the Board of Inquiry report.

No mechanism for disposal of residual scrap in Rajasthan

†2603. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in Rajasthan, where Armed Forces are present and perform exercises on Pokharan Nal Field Firing Range etc., the proper mechanism for the disposal of residual scrap is available and sometime unused bombs also mixes with that scrap;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether due to lack of proper mechanism many people have lost their lives because of bomb shells found the scrap collected by the local people;

(c) whether there is any provision to provide compensation to such people; and

(d) whether any mechanism is under consideration to prevent recurrence of such mishaps?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (d) Proper mechanism for disposal of residual scrap at Pokhran and Mahajan (Nal) field firing ranges in Rajasthan exists to avoid the mixing of unused bombs with scrap.

(b) There are no officially reported incidents of loss of life on this account.

(c) As per the Deed of Licence, the collection of scrap is carried out by an authorized contractor under his own arrangements. The contractor and his employees are properly briefed about the safety measures to be taken. Compensation, if any, to any of his employees affected by an accident is to be settled by the contractor.

Corruption in Armed Forces

2604. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scams, scandal cases of corruption, bribery, amassing of disproportionate assets etc. have been detected against several senior Army, Navy and Air Force Officers during last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken and punishments awarded; and

(d) what punitive, preventive and corrective steps Government intends to take to stop the rot, which has even reached the three wings of Armed Forces top brass?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) A statement giving details is enclosed (See below).

(d) Indian Armed Forces are governed by their respective Acts namely Army Act, Navy Act and Air Force Act. Appropriate provisions are there in these Acts to take action against Force personnel indulging in corrupt